[13th August 1954

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The workers have been advised to file applications with the Commissioner for Workemen's Compensation under the Payment of Wages Act for recovery of arrears of salary due to them."

* 1425 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any report or representation from the local officers regarding the mass Satyagraha resorted to by the workers of Pappinisseri Aaron Mills with effect from 18th February 1954; and

(*b*) if so, whether any enquiry has been made into the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" When a question on this subject came up before this Assembly last time, the Hon. Minister said that he would take action against the management for violating so many Labour Acts. May I inform the Hon. Minister that the management has violated the Industrial Disputes Act and the Payment of Wages Act? The management did not give notice to the workers before the closure of the factory. Have the Government taken any action against the management and what is the concrete proposal before the Government to give unemployment relief to the workers? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The information that the Government have is that the factory has been closed because there was a lot of stock which could not be disposed of and that the concern is in a very bad condition financially. Government have been taking steps to get the arrears of wages paid."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that the machinery and other property belonging to the Aaron Mills, Limited, Pappinisseri, have been fixed up for sale by auction by the various creditors and the debenture trustees? As the Hon. Minister has replied that the workers have been advised to file individual applications for recovery of arrears of salary, may I submit that by the time action is taken on the applications the property may be removed and put to auction? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Government have been looking into the legal position."